Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ASUNCI 02173 271507Z ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 /018 W

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R 271410Z MAY 77 FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0234 USDOC WASHDC INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO AMCONSUL SAN PAULO

UNCLAS ASINCION 2173

E.O. 11652: N/ATAGS: ENRG, EINV, PA

SUBJ: ITAIPU TO BUILD DAM ON MONDAY RIVER

1. DEBERNARDI HAS CONFIRMED TO EMBASSY THE TRUTH OF A NEWSPAPER ARTICLE REPORTING THAT THE BINATIONAL ENTITY OF ITAIPU WILL CONSTRUCT A DAM ON THE MONDAY RIVER. ENGINEERING WORK IS TO BEGIN IMMEDIATELY, AND CONSTRUCTION WORK SHOULD START IN MID-1978. THE PROPOSED DAM WILL ASSIST IN REGULATING THE WATERS OF THE PARANA RIVER FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE ITAIPU COMPLEX. ITAIPU BINATIONAL WILL PAY THE COSTS OF THE DAM (ESTIMATED AT \$50 MILLION) BUT WILL THEN GIVE IT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF PARAGUAY.

2. THIS DAM COULD BE THE SOURCE OF CHEAP HYDROELECTRIC POWER, SINCE GOP WILL NOT HAVE TO AMORTIZE COST OF DAM. HOWEVER, SINCE PURPOSE OF DAM IS TO COMPENSATE FOR VARYING WATER LEVELS RATHER THAN TO PRODUCE ENERGY, QUANTITY OF POWER AND CONTINUITY MAY NOT BE SUFFICIENTLY RELIABLE FOR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES. LANDAU

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
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Subject: ITAIPU TO BUILD DAM ON MONDAY RIVER

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